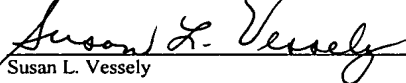


Certificate Under 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on August 5, 2003.

  
Susan L. Vessely



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G. J. J. J.  
8/14/03

PATENT

Our Case No. 970/045

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of

Robert D. Brand

Serial No.: 09/377,120

Filed: August 19, 1999

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
RETAINING A FLITCH FOR CUTTING

) Group Art Unit 3725  
)  
) Examiner: Waymond D. Bray  
)  
)  
)  
)

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3706

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED JULY 3, 2003**

MAIL STOP NON-FEE AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed July 3, 2003, please consider the following amendments and remarks and the enclosed Letter to the Official Draftsman with a further correction of FIG. 22. No fees are believed required, however, should any fees be deemed necessary, please charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 23-1925. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.